

BEFORE THE DIRECTOR  
OF THE  
OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS  
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
2000 14TH STREET, N.W., SUITE 420  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009  
(202) 671-0550

IN THE MATTER OF	}	DATE: August 10, 2007
	}	
Committee to Elect Christine Tolson	}	DOCKET NO: 07C- 014
Christine M. Tolson, Treasurer	}	
4555 Dix Street, NE	}	HEARING OFFICER: William O. SanFord
Washington, DC 20019	}	

**ORDER**

**Statement of the Case**

This matter comes before the Office of Campaign Finance (OCF) upon an inquiry conducted by the Office of Campaign Finance which determined that the Committee to Elect Christine Tolson, Principal Campaign Committee, for which Christine Tolson, serves as treasurer, failed to timely file on or before March 12, 2007, a March 10, 2007 Report of Receipts and Expenditures (March 10, 2007 Report), pursuant to D.C. Official Code §1-1102.06(a) (2001 Edition).

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated March 21, 2007, OCF ordered Christine Tolson (hereinafter respondent treasurer) to appear at a scheduled hearing on March 29, 2007, and show cause why the Committee to Elect Christine Tolson, Principal Campaign Committee (hereinafter respondent committee) should not be found in violation of the D.C. Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended by D.C. Official Code §§1-1101.01 et seq. (Act) and fined accordingly.

**Summary of Evidence**

On March 29, 2007, respondent treasurer appeared pro se. OCF was represented by Sonya Lake, Financial Reporting and Examining Specialist.

Ms. Lake alleged that the respondent committee failed to timely file the statutorily required March 10, 2007 Report by March 12, 2007. The respondent treasurer stated that she conceded the violation. Respondent treasurer also stated that her failure to timely file the report was due to the fact that she was out of town caring for an ill uncle during the period that the report was due.

Respondent also stated that she did not receive the Reminder Notice that was mailed to her address by OCF until after the report was delinquent because of her absence from the area. Respondent treasurer finally stated that she filed the report when she returned to the area and discovered the delinquency.

### **Findings of Fact**

Having reviewed the allegations and OCF records, I find:

1. Respondent committee was required to file a March 10, 2007 Report with OCF on or before March 12, 2007.
2. Respondent committee did not timely file a March 10, 2007 Report with OCF.
3. Respondent treasurer submitted a March 10, 2007 Report on March 26, 2007 because she was out of town during the filing period.
4. Respondent treasurer was a first time candidate for elective office in the District of Columbia.
5. Respondent committee is currently in compliance with the statute.

### **Conclusion of Law**

Based upon the record and evidence, I therefore conclude:

1. The respondent committee violated D.C. Official Code § 1-1105.05(a).
2. The penalty established at 3DCMR §§ 3711.2(f) and 3711.4, for failure to timely file a March 10, 2007 Report required by D.C. Official Code §1-1102.06(a), is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day subsequent to the due date.
3. In accordance with D.C. Official Code § 1-1103.05(b) (3) and 3DCMR §§ 3711.2(f) and 3711.4, the respondent committee may be fined a maximum of \$450.00 for failing to timely file a March 10, 2007 Report.
4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3DCMR § 3711.6, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent's explanation for failing to timely file a March 10, 2007 Report and status as a first time candidate for elective office in the District of Columbia warrant favorable consideration.

**Recommendation**

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director suspend the fine in this matter.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**William O. SanFord**  
**Hearing Officer**

**Concurrence**

In view of the foregoing, I hereby concur with the Recommendation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kathy S. Williams**  
**General Counsel**

**ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR**

**IT IS ORDERED** that the fine in this matter is hereby suspended.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery**  
**Director**

This Order may be appealed to the Board of Elections and Ethics within 15 days from the date of issuance.

NOTICE

Pursuant to 3 DCMR § 3711.5 (March 2007), any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16<sup>th</sup> day following the issuance of a decision and order, if the respondent does not request an appeal of this matter. If applicable, within 10 days of the effective date of this order, please make a check or money order payable to the D.C. Treasurer, c/o Office of Campaign Finance, Suite 420, 2000 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

SERVICE OF ORDER

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order.

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April Williams

